(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. There is at present no specific proposal under consideration for gas imports from Turkmenistan to India *via* Afghanistan and Pakistan.

(d) and (e) As and when any proposal for the supply of gas from Turkmenistan to India *via* Afghanistan and Pakistan is taken up, all security and economic aspects will be thoroughly examined.

**Committee to recast oil sector**

1264. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a six-member Committee, to suggest within two months, a road map to recast the oil sector, merger of state-owned oil corporation, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) While there is a proposal to set up a six member Committee to advise the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Synergy in Energy, including issues relating to oil sector PSUs, no formal decision in this regard has been taken so far.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Exploration of gas from Orissa coast**

1265. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL propose to start gas exploration off the Orissa coast;

(b) if so, the details of the project indicating the areas so identified for exploration to begin with; and

(c) the rough estimates of gas that could be available off the Orissa coast?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) GAIL has participating interests in Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) in 3 exploration blocks off the Orissa Coast. The details of the blocks of the offshore are as under:

| Block Name | Consortium | Operator |
|---|---|---|
| NEC-OSN-97/1 | OAO Gazprom 50%<br>GAIL 50% | Gazprom |
| MN-OSN-97/3 | ONGC-85%<br>GAIL-15% | ONGC |
| MN-OSN-2002/2 | ONGC-40%<br>IOC-20%<br>GAIL-20%<br>OIL-20% | ONGC |

Exploration work is in progress in all the above blocks.

(c) Exploration work in offshore Mahanadi Basin so far has resulted in four gas discoveries by M/s. Reliance Industries Limited. The initial in place reserves of three discoveries are estimated to be about 27.2 BCM while reserves of the 4th discovery are under estimation.

**Profit earned by oil refining companies**

1266. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the profits earned by oil refining companies and the oil exploration companies during the period when the retail prices were allegedly not adjusted in line with international prices;

(b) whether oil refining companies which do not market so-called subsidized products made a windfall profit during the last one year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?